

**REMARKS**

The present application has been amended to recite that it is the national stage filing of corresponding international application number PCT/EP2003/012514, filed November 10, 2003, which claims priority to and the benefit of the European application no. 02025315.9, filed November 13, 2002. Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, 18, 20, 21 and 22 have been amended and fully comply with 35 USC § 112. No fee is believed to be due with the filing of this Amendment. However, if any fees are deemed necessary, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2168.

Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 20, 2005

  
M. Caragh Noone, Reg. No. 37,197

Bracco Research USA

305 College Road East  
Princeton, NJ 08540

Tel: (609) 514-2454  
Fax: (609) 514-2446